Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A beverage dispenser for ejecting a beverage into a receptacle[[,]] comprising:

a housing including a taking-in/out space;

a plurality of nozzles provided above the taking-in/out space ~~in the beverage dispenser,~~ for ejecting the beverage[[,]]into the receptacle;

obstacle detection means for detecting an obstacle around the ~~nozzle,~~ plurality of nozzles; ~~and~~

alarm means for issuing an alarm when the detection means detects the obstacle; and

a nozzle cover for covering the plurality of nozzles and the obstacle detection means to partially close the taking-in/out space.

2. (Currently Amended) A beverage dispenser as defined by claim 1, ~~further comprising a mechanism capable of not detecting~~ wherein the obstacle detection means is configured to not detect the receptacle~~, into which the beverage is ejected from the beverage dispenser,~~ as the obstacle.

3. (Currently Amended) A beverage dispenser as defined by claim 2, wherein the ~~mechanism capable of not detecting the receptacle into which the beverage is ejected defines~~ obstacle detection means is configured to include a detection area ~~of the obstacle detection means~~ in the vicinity of the nozzles.

4. (Currently Amended) A beverage dispenser as defined by any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein ~~the~~ no alarm is ~~not~~ issued from the alarm means when the beverage is ejected.

5. (Previously Presented) A beverage dispenser as defined by claim 1, further comprising a switch capable of making the alarm means inoperative.

6. (Previously Presented) A beverage dispenser as defined by claim 1, wherein the alarm means is an acoustic generator.

7. (Canceled).

8. (New) A beverage dispenser as defined by claim 1, wherein the obstacle detection means is located between the plurality of nozzles and the receptacle to be placed in the taking-in/out space.